

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4091

To provide debt relief and reconstruction aid to Mozambique and the other countries severely damaged by the recent flooding in southern Africa.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 23, 2000

Ms. WATERS (for herself, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. LEE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. WYNN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. HILLIARD, Ms. CARSON, and Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide debt relief and reconstruction aid to Mozambique and the other countries severely damaged by the recent flooding in southern Africa.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Limpopo River Debt
5 Relief and Reconstruction Act of 2000”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Beginning on February 9, 2000, the south-
4 ern African countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Mada-
5 gascar, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Zam-
6 bia, and Zimbabwe began to experience severe flood-
7 ing caused by days of heavy rain and cyclones, and
8 the Republic of Mozambique bore the brunt of these
9 torrential rains and experienced the worst flooding
10 in 50 years.

11 (2) Flooding along the Limpopo River in Mo-
12 zambique is particularly severe.

13 (3) The extent of the death and destruction
14 caused by these floods is still unknown.

15 (4) Because of the floods, there are hundreds of
16 thousands of homeless people living in camps in
17 these countries. These displaced people are in des-
18 perate need of food, clean water, medicine, blankets
19 and tents.

20 (5) Many of these countries' roads and bridges
21 have been completely washed out, and their infra-
22 structure has been severely damaged.

23 (6) These countries need long-term economic
24 and technical assistance for the repair and recon-
25 struction of roads and bridges, schools and hospitals,

1 energy infrastructure, telecommunications facilities
2 and other essential infrastructure.

3 (7) The governments of these countries cannot
4 adequately address the immediate needs of displaced
5 people or invest in long-term development while con-
6 tinuing to make debt payments to foreign govern-
7 ments.

8 (8) Debt cancellation and reconstruction assist-
9 ance are essential to allow these countries to provide
10 for the needs of their people, repair their damaged
11 infrastructure and rebuild their economies.

12 **TITLE I—DEBT RELIEF**

13 **SEC. 101. BILATERAL DEBT FORGIVENESS.**

14 (a) CANCELLATION OF DEBT.—Subject to amounts
15 provided in advance in appropriations Acts, the President
16 shall cancel all amounts owed to the United States (or
17 any agency of the United States) by eligible countries (as
18 defined in section 301) as a result of concessional and
19 nonconcessional loans made, guarantees or insurance
20 issued, or credits extended under any provision of law.

21 (b) SPECIAL PROVISIONS.—

22 (1) CANCELLATION OF DEBT NOT CONSIDERED
23 TO BE ASSISTANCE.—Except as the President may
24 otherwise determine for reasons of national security,
25 a cancellation of debt under subsection (a) shall not

1 be considered to be assistance for purposes of any
2 provision of law limiting assistance to a country.

3 (2) INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROHIBI-
4 TIONS RELATING TO CANCELLATION OF DEBT.—The
5 authority to provide for cancellation of debt under
6 subsection (a) may be exercised notwithstanding sec-
7 tion 620(r) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
8 or any similar provision of law.

9 (3) OTHER DEBT CANCELLATION AUTHORI-
10 TIES.—The authority to cancel debt under sub-
11 section (a) is in addition to the authority to cancel
12 debt under any other provision of law and does not
13 in any way limit or otherwise affect such other au-
14 thority.

15 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
16 cost (as defined in section 502(5) of the Federal Credit
17 Reform Act of 1990) of the cancellation of any debt under
18 subsection (a), there are authorized to be appropriated to
19 the President such sums as may be necessary for each of
20 the fiscal years 2001 and 2002.

21 **SEC. 102. DEBT FORGIVENESS BY PARIS CLUB MEMBERS.**

22 The Congress urges the President to use the influ-
23 ence of the United States within the Paris Club of Official
24 Creditors to urge each nation that is a member of the

1 Paris Club of Official Creditors to cancel all debt owed
2 to the nation by the government of any eligible country.

3 **SEC. 103. DEBT FORGIVENESS BY INTERNATIONAL FINAN-**
4 **CIAL INSTITUTIONS.**

5 The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the
6 United States Executive Directors at the International
7 Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Inter-
8 national Monetary Fund, the African Development Bank,
9 and the African Development Fund to use the voice, vote,
10 and influence of the United States to urge their respective
11 institutions to cancel all debt owed to the institution by
12 the government of any eligible country.

13 **TITLE II—RECONSTRUCTION AID**

14 **SEC. 201. BILATERAL AID.**

15 Chapter 9 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act
16 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2292 et seq.) is amended by adding
17 at the end the following:

18 “SEC. 495L. SOUTHERN AFRICA RELIEF AND RE-
19 CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE.—

20 “(a) AUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE.—The Presi-
21 dent is authorized to provide assistance for relief, recon-
22 struction, and related recovery activities in southern Afri-
23 ca as a result of the severe flooding that began on Feb-
24 ruary 9, 2000, in the southern African nations of Bot-
25 swana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Africa,

1 Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Assistance under this
2 subsection shall be provided on a grant basis.

3 “(b) POLICIES AND AUTHORITIES TO BE AP-
4 PLIED.—Assistance under subsection (a) shall be fur-
5 nished in accordance with the policies and general authori-
6 ties contained in section 491.

7 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In ad-
8 dition to amounts otherwise available for carrying out sub-
9 section (a), there are authorized to be appropriated to
10 carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for
11 each of the fiscal years 2001 and 2002.”.

12 **SEC. 202. AID BY PARIS CLUB MEMBERS.**

13 The Congress urges the President to use the influ-
14 ence of the United States within the Paris Club of Official
15 Creditors to urge each country that is a member of the
16 Paris Club of Official Creditors to provide grants to the
17 government of each eligible country for the repair and re-
18 construction of the infrastructure of the country that has
19 been damaged or destroyed by the flooding in southern
20 Africa that began on February 9, 2000.

21 **SEC. 203. AID BY INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITU-**
22 **TIONS.**

23 The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the
24 United States Executive Directors at the International
25 Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Inter-

1 national Monetary Fund, the African Development Bank,
2 and the African Development Fund to use the voice, vote,
3 and influence of the United States to urge their respective
4 institutions to provide grants to the government of each
5 eligible country for the repair and reconstruction of the
6 infrastructure of the country that has been damaged or
7 destroyed by the flooding in southern Africa that began
8 on February 9, 2000.

9 **TITLE III—ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES**

10 **SEC. 301. DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE COUNTRY.**

11 In this Act, the term “eligible country” means Bot-
12 swana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Africa,
13 Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

○